while he marched against the TREVERI

Meanwhile the TREVERI had collected large forces of infantry and cavalry and were preparing to attack Labienus and the single legion which was remaining in their locality they were within two days march of his camp, when they heard of the arrival of the two legions despatched to him by Caesar and, encamping at a distance of 15 miles, they decided to wait for reinforcements from the Germans.

Labienus hoped their imprudence would give him some opportunity of bringing

53BC

(1)

TREVERI routed

Because he saw almost everyone getting ready to fight him, before the winter was over, Caesar assembled the 4 nearest legions and made an unexpected attack on the country of the NERVII. Before they could either concentrate their forces or flee, a large number of cattle and prisoners were captured and handed over as booty to the soldiers; the country was ravaged; and the NERVII forced to surrender and give hostages. After this quick success Caesar took the

legions back into winter quarters. In the early spring he convoked the usual Gallic council which was attended by all those summoned except the SENONES, CARNUTES, and TREVERI.

Caesar started with his legions the same day and made his way by forced marches to the country of the SENONES.

On learning of his approach, ACCO, the ringleader of the conspiracy, ordered the populations to gather in their strongholds. The Senones had no choice but to abandon their project and send envoys to ask Caesar's pardon. He pardoned but ordered them, however, to provide a hundred hostages, whom he entrusted to the Aedui.

Now that this part of Gaul was tranquilized, Caesar devoted all his energy to the west.

He had CAVARINUS to accompany him with the cavalry of the SENONES.

He took 5 legions against the Menapii in 3 columns burned farms and villages and taking large number of cattle & prisoners, they were forced to sue for peace. He left Camulogenus the ATREBATIAN with a force of cavalry to keep the Menapii under surveillance

and taking a number of prisoners, and a few days later had received his hold over the tribe, for the Germans who were coming to aid them returned home when they found the TREVERI routed. The relatives of INDUTIOMARUS who had instigated the revolt fled the country and went along with the Germans. CINGETORIX, who had remained loyal right from the outset, was invested with civil and military control of the tribe.

the Treveri to action. He left 5 cohorts to guard the baggage marched against the enemy with the other 25 and a strong force of cavalry, and entrenched a camp a mile away from them. Between the 2 camps there was a river with steep banks. Labienus let everyone know "Since the Germans were said to be approaching he would not remain, but would break up camp next morning at dawn.

At night Labienus summoned the military tribunes and first-grade centurions and explained his plans. Then he ordered the camp to be broken with more noise.

When the rearguard of the Roman column had barely got outside the entrenchment the Treveri boldly began to cross the river and join battle in an unfavourable position. Labienus had expected this and ensured them all room by continuing to advance slowly.

Then, sending the baggage a short distance ahead he said to the soldiers: 'Here is your chance. You have got the enemy where you wanted them — in a bad position. He bade the units turn to face the enemy and form a line of battle, sent a few squadrons of cavalry to protect the baggage and posted the rest on the flanks.

The Treveri were amazed to see the Romans that thought to be in flight advancing to the attack. They had not the courage to face its charge; they turned tail and made for the nearest woods.

Labienus hunted them down with his cavalry, killing many of them

and to western end of the Ardennes, where he heard AMBIORIX had gone. All three were to return in a week. The Germans came over the Rhine to plunder. They heard about the baggage. Cicero sent 5 cohorts to get corn from the nearest fields. At this moment the German Cavalry appeared and tried to break in by the back gate. The whole camp was in a state of alarm. Among the sick left in the garrison was BACULUS who had served under Caesar as chief centurion of his legion. He borrowed arms from the nearest soldier and posted himself in the gateway. He was joined by centurions of the cohort on guard. They held back the attack. BACULUS was wounded.

53 BC

DEVASTATION OF THE COUNTRY OF THE EBURONES

(modern Belgium)

When the crops were beginning to ripen, Caesar set out through the Ardennes to fight AMBIORIX. He sent LUCIUS MINUCIUS BASILUS in advance with all the cavalry, to see if he could gain any advantage by travelling quickly and striking at a favourable opportunity. He was not to light fires in his camps & Caesar promised to follow immediately.

Basilus duly carried out his instructions

Completing the journey more quickly than anyone had thought possible, he surprised a number of EBURONES working in the fields, and following their desertion hurried on to a place where AMBIORIX, guarded only by a few horsemen, was said to be. This was a great stroke of luck, but by an equally great stroke AMBIORIX escaped alive, although he lost all the military equipment that he had with him, his carriages, and his horses.

AMBIORIX sent out messengers, bidding everyone shift for himself. CATUVOLCUS now an old man, cursed AMBIORIX and poisoned himself with YEW.

Caesar segregated his forces into three divisions and took all heavy baggage to ATUATUCA. He left the baggage under the protection of the 14th legion. He assigned this legion, and the camp, and the baggage and 200 cavalry to Cicero.

Caesar ordered LABIENUS + 3 legions to advance towards the coast, into the region bordering on the country of the MENAPII. He sent TREBONIUS with 3 legions to ravage the district lying on the frontiers of the ATUATUCI. He took the remaining three legions to march to the river SCHELDT, which flows into the MEUSE

53BC Devastation of Country of EBURONES

BACULUS was pressed back one by one and saved. This quick action gave rest of troops time to recover their courage. The German cavalry then attacked the foraging party (raw recruits) in small rides. Some made it back to camp. Some were surrounded and killed. They were so demoralized that they did not believe Caesar was in the area with his legions until he showed himself.

Setting out once more to harass the EBURONES Caesar sent a large force of cavalry out in

all directions. Every village and every building they saw was set on fire; all over the country the cattle were either slaughtered or driven off as booty; and the crops were consumed by the great numbers of horses and men.

After ravaging the country in this way Caesar withdrew his army — minus the two cohorts of Cicero's legion which had been lost — to DUROCORTORUM, a town of the Remi, where he convened a Gallic Council and held an enquiry into the conspiracy of the Senones and Carnutes. ACCO, the instigator of the plot, was condemned to death and executed in the ancient Roman manner (by scourging and beheading). Some others were outlawed. Caesar then distributed the legions in winter quarters — two on the frontier of TREVERI, two among the LINGONES and the other six at AGEDINCUM in the country of the SENONES and set out for northern Italy as usual to hold his assizes.

53BC

THE TREVERI routed

Caesar charged three of his generals, MARCUS SILANUS, GAIUS ANTISTIUS REGINUS, and TITUS SEXTIUS with the duty of raising fresh troops. He also sent a message to Pompey - who though vested as proconsul with military command, was remaining in the neighborhood of Rome - requesting him to mobilize the recruits from northern Italy whom he had sworn in during his consulship and to send them out to him.

Pompey acceded to this request and Caesar's officers promptly enlisted further recruits, so that before the end of the winter three legions were formed and brought to hand, making double the number of cohorts lost under SABINUS.